

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

August 28, 2012

The Honorable Ron Kirk  
Office of the United States Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Kirk:

We write to request access as observers to the 14<sup>th</sup> round of Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations that will take place at the Lansdowne Resort in Leesburg, Virginia from September 6-15, 2012.

We are aware that in the context of past important trade negotiations, the Office of the United States Trade Representative has accommodated sizeable congressional delegations that have included Representatives and Senators from various committees. This included negotiations relating to the Uruguay Round of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the launch of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha Round and various North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) rounds.

Last month, we were among the 134 House members that wrote to urge you and your staff to engage in broader and deeper consultations with members of the full range of congressional committees whose jurisdiction is implicated by the TPP's expansive scope. We also requested that you continue past U.S. practice and release the draft TPP text, as a past administration did with respect to Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) draft text in 2001.

We have had neither a response to that letter nor offers of enhanced consultations and access to draft text. Thus, so as to ensure that there is ample opportunity for Congress to have a clear understanding of and input on critical policies that will have broad ramifications for years to come, we are requesting that you facilitate our ability to observe the TPP negotiations directly.

Each of us has previously taken leadership aimed at improving consultations on various issues of interest to us and at stake within the context of the TPP negotiations. These include seeking to address concerns that the agreement being negotiated may undermine Buy American procurement policies, place limits on robust financial regulation, provide extraordinary substantive and procedural rights to foreign investors, restrict access to lifesaving medicines in developing nations, and jeopardize the safety of imported food, to name a few. We remain deeply concerned about these issues.

We request that your office contact our offices as soon as possible to make logistical arrangements to accommodate us and certain members of our staff to be present as observers to the various negotiating groups covering our issues of concern. Thank you for your prompt consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



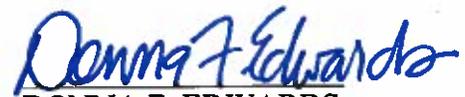
ROSA L. DeLAURO  
Member of Congress



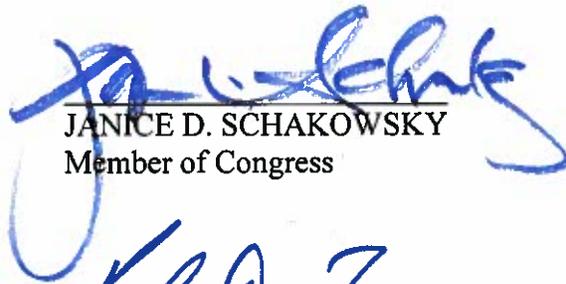
GEORGE MILLER  
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